

B O R O U G H O F D R O I T W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and of the

B O R O U G H S U R V E Y O R

and

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the year

1955.

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1955/6.

His Worship the Mayor : Councillor H.L. Chatterley.

Deputy Mayor : Alderman G. Harrison.

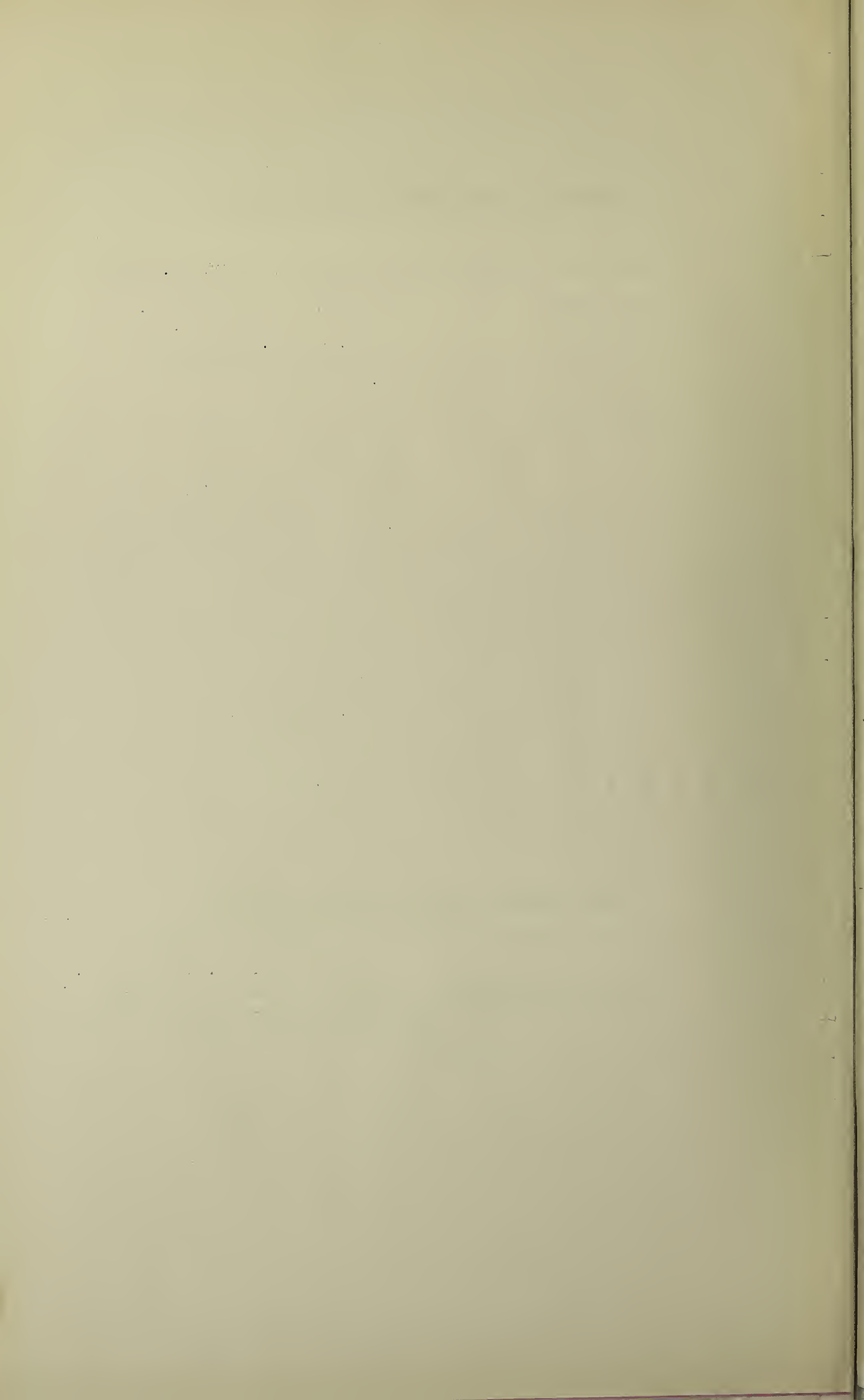
Aldermen : Mrs. J. M. Addenbrooke.
A. Blake (Deceased).
E. S. Jones.

Councillors : W. J. O. Hartlett.
G. Davies.
R. D. N. Fabricius.
Mrs. E.L. Hatchett.
J. L. Hatchett.
B. Inett.
R. Jolliffe.
R. Pearson.
J.A. Pittaway.
V. W. H. Rohan.
W. G. Taylor.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : L. Spencer Stephens,
M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : Graham L. Robinson,
M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
(Certificated Meat and Food Inspector)



TOWN HALL,
DROITWICH.

AUGUST 1956.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the
Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

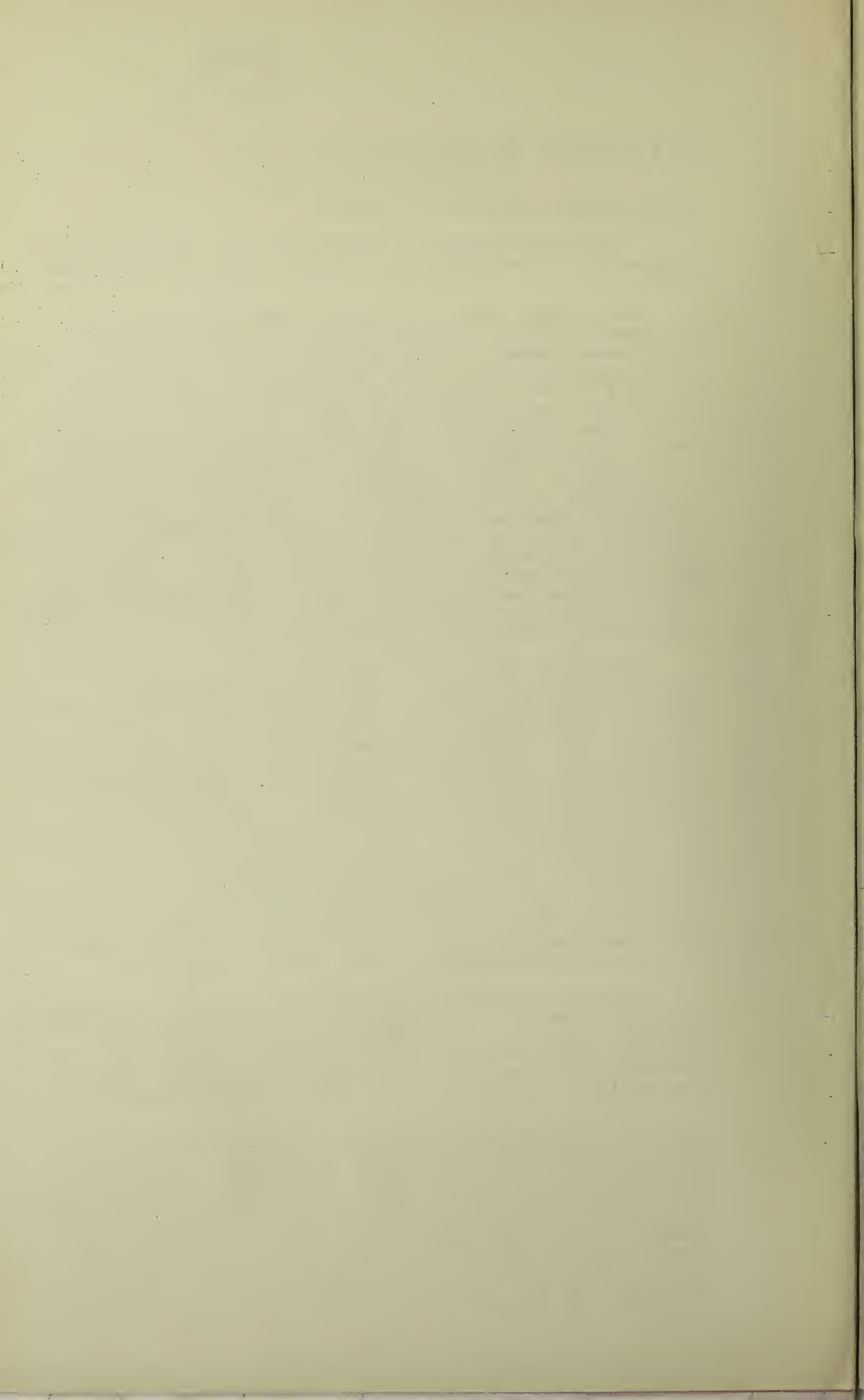
I have great pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the Year ended 31st. December 1955.

The general health of the population remained good throughout the Year and there were no serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease. Cases of Measles were notified in fairly large numbers giving a total of one hundred and fifty one cases, but this is not exceptional as virtually no cases occurred during 1954, and it is a recognised fact that outbreaks occur in two year cycles. Although there was a scare in the town during the summer due to a death from Acute Poliomyelitis, there was no real cause for alarm as only one other isolated case occurred. These sporadic cases are bound to crop up due to movements of population. It is often very difficult to confirm the diagnosis even after the patient has been in hospital for two or three days, and only right that they should be notified on suspicion in their early stages so that the appropriate preventive measures may be taken. Fortunately the new scheme for Vaccination against the disease, introduced by the Ministry of Health this Year will give parents an opportunity to have their children protected.

There were eleven new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the Year. This is far too many for a population of under 7,000. The responsibility rests largely with the general public for reducing the incidence of the disease. Patients must realise that they may remain infectious for Years, and all family contacts should co-operate with the Chest Physician when asked to attend for X-Ray Examination. The Miniature Mass Radiography Unit of the Birmingham Regional Board is visiting the town this Year. This provides an excellent opportunity for everyone to make quite certain they are not suffering from the disease. Preventive Vaccination with "B.C.G." (Bacillus of Calmette and Guérin) is also available for young children who are contacts, and is being offered for every child before they leave school, after their thirteenth birthday. Adolescent youth is at special risk in office work and industry, and parents are strongly recommended to protect their children at this stage in their lives.

The Vital Statistics of the Borough are set out on pages 3 and 4. They are comparable with the statistics for England and Wales with the exception of the Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates which have fallen sharply. There were only two deaths in infants under the age of four weeks, which is encouraging. Numbers are too small to be significant however.

There are certain outstanding problems to be dealt with which materially affect the health of the community, and I would like to bring them to your notice here. The Sewage Disposal Works have had no major alterations or improvements made to them since 1931. Poor samples of effluent have been obtained on several occasions, and the Severn River Board have brought this to the notice of the Council, asking that the position should be remedied without delay. The first step must be the acquisition of the land required for the necessary extensions to the works, and secondly a detailed scheme must be prepared. It seems likely that it will be at least two years



Continued -

before any work is commenced.

Much consideration has been given to the provision of more satisfactory mortuary accommodation for the town, but little progress has been made. Negotiations with the Regional Hospital Board for the use of facilities at Highfield Hospital proved fruitless, and the use of hospital facilities outside the town impracticable, being outside the District Coroner's area. Martley and Droitwich Rural District Councils were consulted to see whether they would be interested in the use of a combined mortuary. Martley Rural District are unlikely to participate in the scheme, but Droitwich Rural District are most anxious to co-operate. The most suitable site for the erection of a new mortuary is undoubtedly at the rear of the Rural District Council Offices in Ombersley Street. Regard should be paid to the needs of relatives and friends who come to view the bodies. They are entitled to decent surroundings, proper viewing facilities and waiting accommodation which must be provided without delay.

Proposals have been submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the demolition of some fifty five unfit properties in the town during the next five years. The number of houses to be dealt with had been reduced to a minimum but even so it was with some diffidence that the proposals went forward. This was unfortunate in view of the encouragement given to Local Authorities under the new Housing Subsidies Act, to build houses for slum clearance purposes. Careful consideration should now be given to tidying up certain black spots in the town. The demolition of certain blocks of property and the acquisition of the land would provide suitable sites for old peoples bungalows or flats. There would be no expenditure on main services so that this should work out cheaper than building them on a new estate. Old people should live centrally and there is bound to be a need, as the aged population is increasing steadily. The only difficulty would seem to be the ability to pay the high rents likely to be necessary for such property, and this can only be overcome by the introduction of a satisfactory Differential Rents Scheme. National Assistance Boards are, as far as I know, willing to guarantee minimum rents on such schemes.

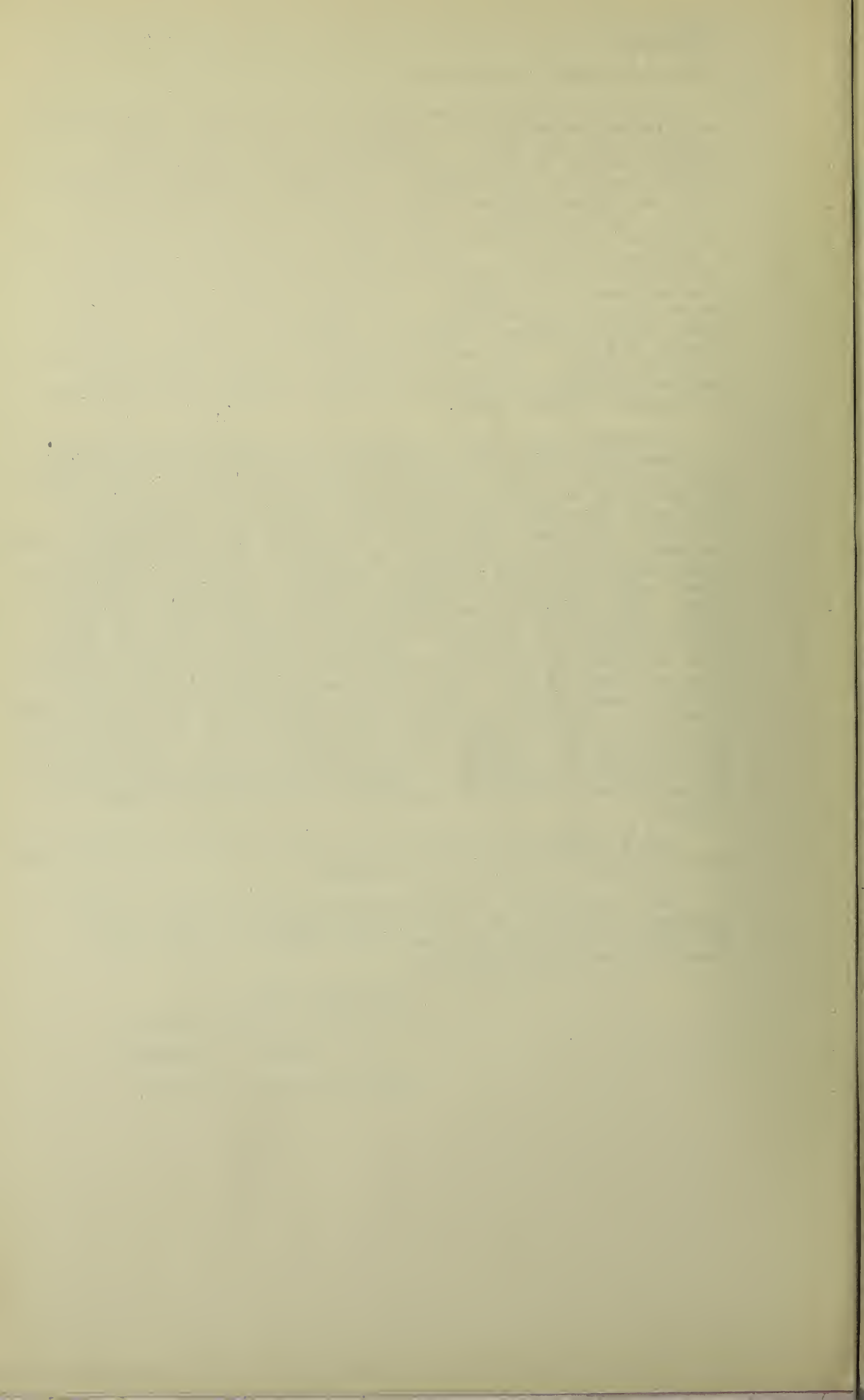
Other comments on points of interest have been included under the appropriate sections of the Report.

May I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Robinson and the members of his Staff for their able assistance, and to you Mr. Mayor and all the members of the Council for your kind consideration during the Year.

I am, Mr. Mayor,
Your obedient servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS.

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION "A" - STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Area | 1735 acres. |
| Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1955 | 6910. |
| Number of inhabited houses 1955 (according to Rate Books). | 1911. |
| Rateable Value at 1st. March 1955 | £47,632. |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £182. |

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :-

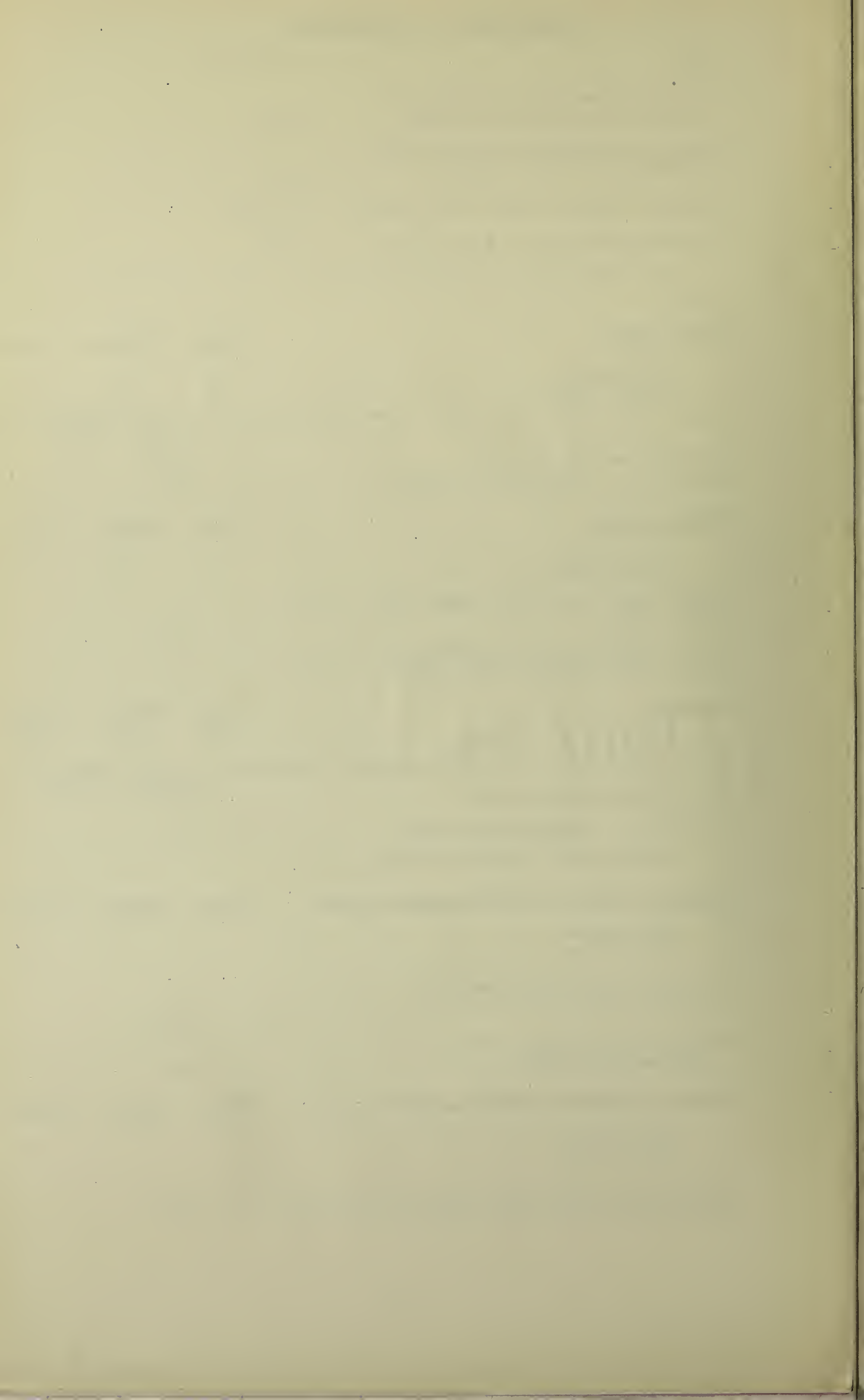
| <u>Live Births.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 51 | 52 | 103. |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 3 | 4. |
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population | 15.48 | Comparability Factor = 0.97 | |
| Standardised Birth Rate | 15.02 | | |
| Birth Rate - England and Wales | 15.0 | | |

| <u>Still Births.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | - | 1 | 1. |
| Illegitimate | - | - | -. |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | 15.63 | | |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births England and Wales | 23.1 | | |

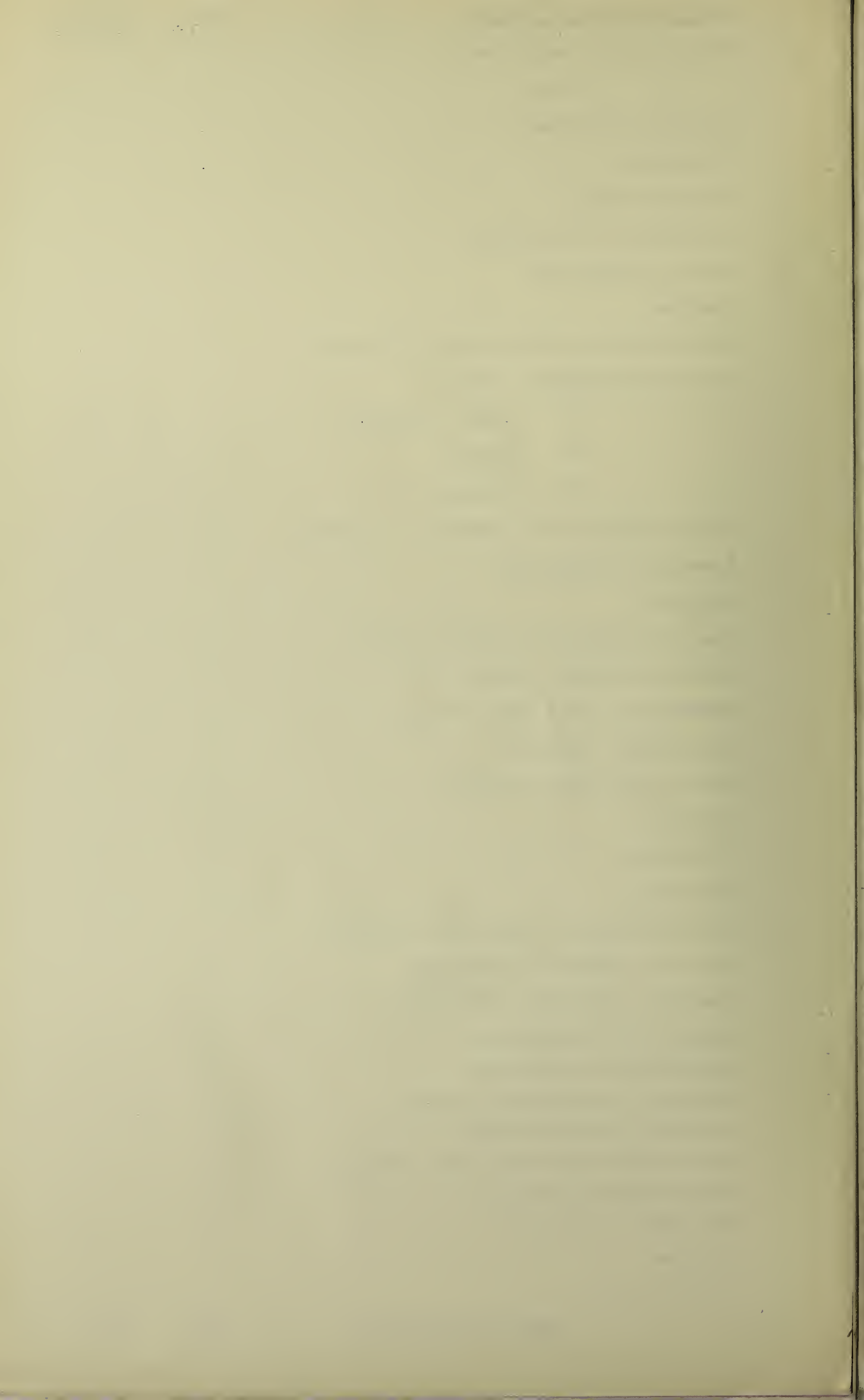
| <u>Deaths.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Analysis of Deaths | 32 | 53 | 85. |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population | 12.30 | Comparability Factor = 0.88 | |
| Standardised Death Rate | 10.8 | | |
| Death Rate - England and Wales | 11.7 | | |
| Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES - NIL. | | | |

| <u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | - | 1 | 1. |
| Illegitimate | - | - | -. |
| Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births | 9.345 | | |
| Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales | 24.9 | | |

| <u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | - | 1 | 1. |
| Illegitimate | - | - | -. |
| Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births | = 9.345 | | |
| Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales | = 17.3 | | |



| <u>Primary Causes of Death.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory. | - | - |
| " other. | - | - |
| Syphilitic diseases. | - | - |
| Diphtheria. | - | - |
| Whooping Cough. | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infections. | - | - |
| Acute Poliomyelitis. | 1 | - |
| Measles. | - | - |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases. | - | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach. | - | 1 |
| " " lung, bronchus. | - | 1 |
| " " breast. | - | - |
| " " uterus. | - | - |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms. | 2 | 4 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia. | - | - |
| Diabetes. | - | - |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system. | 3 | 9 |
| Coronary disease, angina. | 7 | 8 |
| Hypertension with heart disease. | - | 2 |
| Other heart diseases. | 7 | 15 |
| Other circulatory diseases. | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza. | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia. | 2 | 4 |
| Bronchitis. | - | 2 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system. | - | - |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. | 1 | - |
| Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea. | - | - |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis. | - | 2 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate. | 2 | - |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. | - | - |
| Congenital malformations. | - | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases. | 4 | 1 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents. | 1 | - |
| All other accidents. | 1 | - |
| Suicide. | - | 1 |
| Homicide etc. | - | - |
| <u>End of Section "A".</u> | <u>32.</u> | <u>53.</u> |



SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. The following services are provided by the County Council :-

(a) Ambulance Service.

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester, where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. Other Ambulance Stations are situated at Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is stationed in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help in cases of illness and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are one full-time and seven part-time Home Helps working in the Borough.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| General | 44. |
| Maternity | 6. |
| Tuberculosis | 1. |

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service.

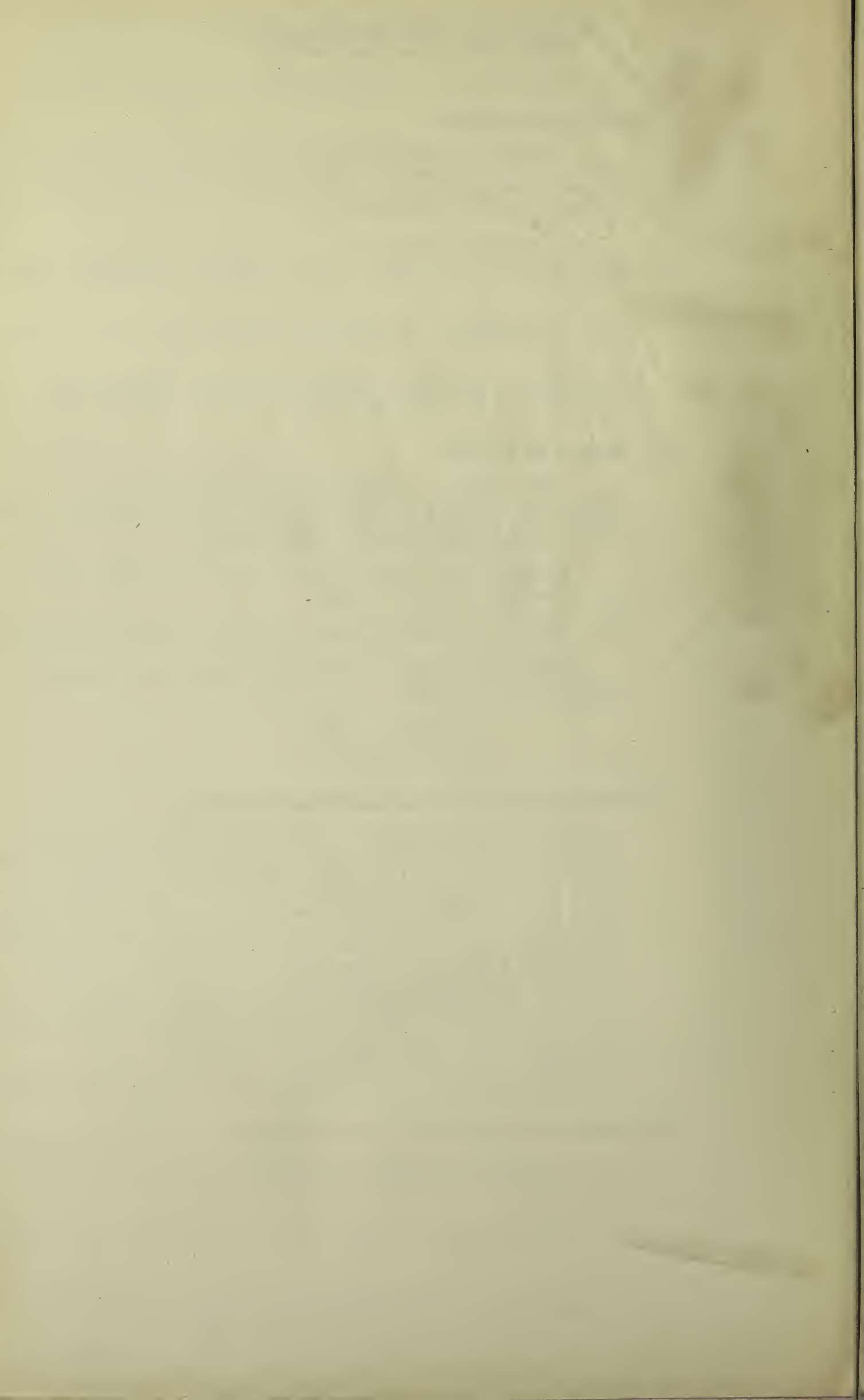
Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There is also one full-time Health Visitor for the Borough, whose main duty is the care of young children from 0 - 5 years, but she is also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family and especially aged persons. She attends the Infant Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics and is in close contact with the Women's Voluntary Service. A Specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she has access to the patients' clinical records, and is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

Children can be immunised against Diphtheria at this Clinic.

During the year 2,236 attendances were made at this Clinic, compared with 2,039 the previous year.



(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children - Continued.

The County Council's ante-natal clinic is held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons in each month at the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 157 attendances were made at this Clinic, compared with 225 the previous year.

(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination.

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at one of the County Council's Clinics.

The following inoculations were done during 1955 :-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year ... 123.

Number of children who received re-inforcing doses during the year ... 85.

Vaccination.

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year ... 125.

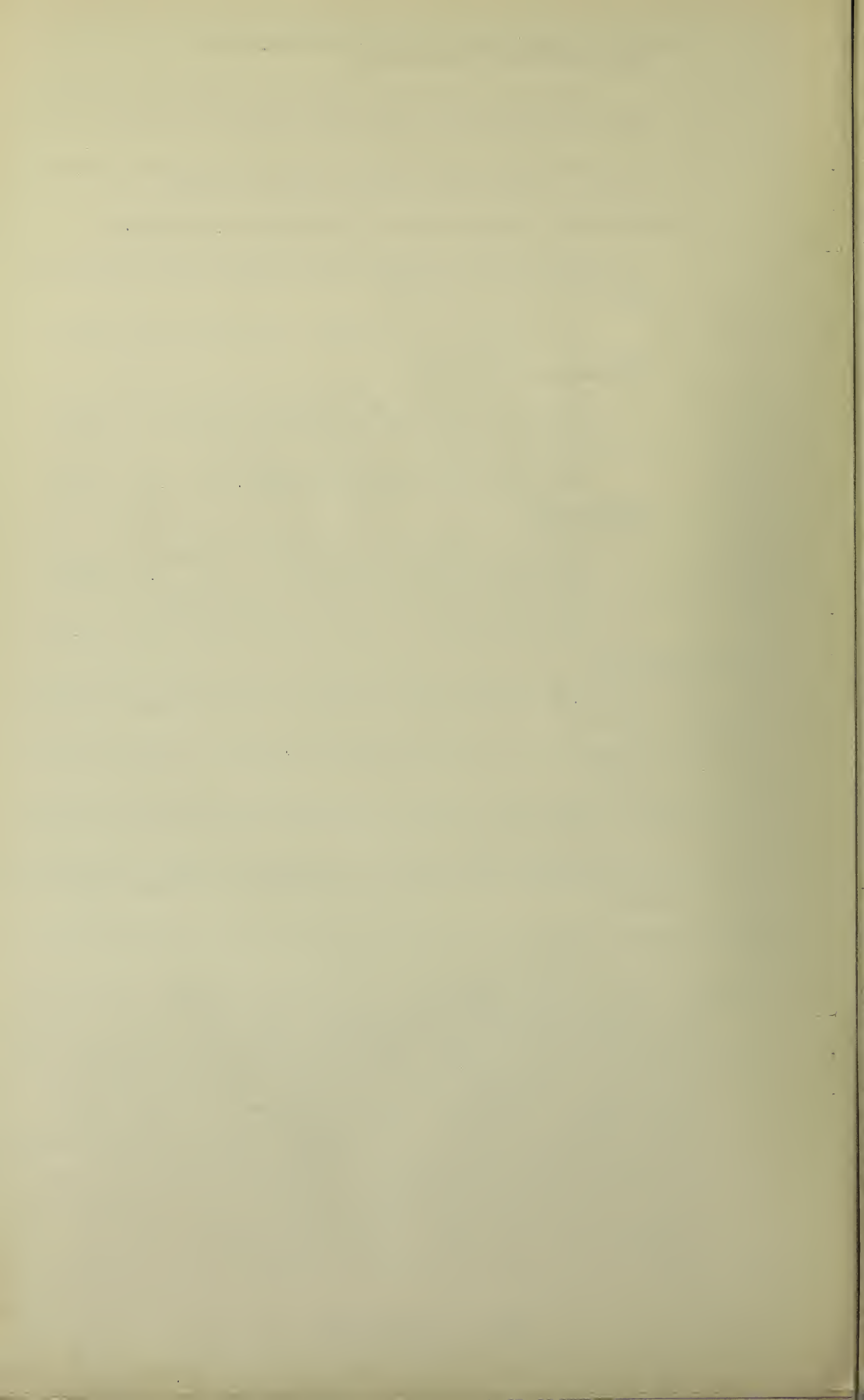
Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year ... 6.

11. Hospitals.

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board :-

- (a) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.
- (b) Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.
- (c) Maternity cases, which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham and Romswood.
- (d) Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick, and Worcester.
- (e) The town is well recognised as one of the leading Centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special Hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 50 - 60 beds and St. Johns Hospital 48 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks, but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which, due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.

End of section "B".



SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

The water supply to the Borough, purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, continued to be adequate in both quantity and quality throughout the year. Samples were taken for analysis and gave satisfactory results. A copy of the County Analyst's report on a sample of this water is given below.:

The majority of dwelling houses in the town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages, which have a supply from wells.

Number of Standpipes in the area. 12.

" " Wells " " " 16.

REPORT OF COUNTY ANALYST ON SAMPLE OF TOWN WATER.

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Physical characters | Clear. |
| Odour | None. |
| Deposit | None. |

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Solids in suspension (Dried at 100° C) | Nil. |
| " " solution (Dried at 180° C) | 28.9 |
| " " " (After ignition) | 22.7 |
| Chlorides calculated as common salt | 1.9 |
| Hardness, permanent | 6.5 |
| " temporary | 12.0 |
| " total | 18.5 |
| Free and Saline Ammonia | 0.001 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | Nil. |
| Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) | .77 |
| Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) | Nil. |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate) | .007 |
| Toxic metals | NONE DETECTED. |
| Residual chlorine on receipt | Nil. |

Note. To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7

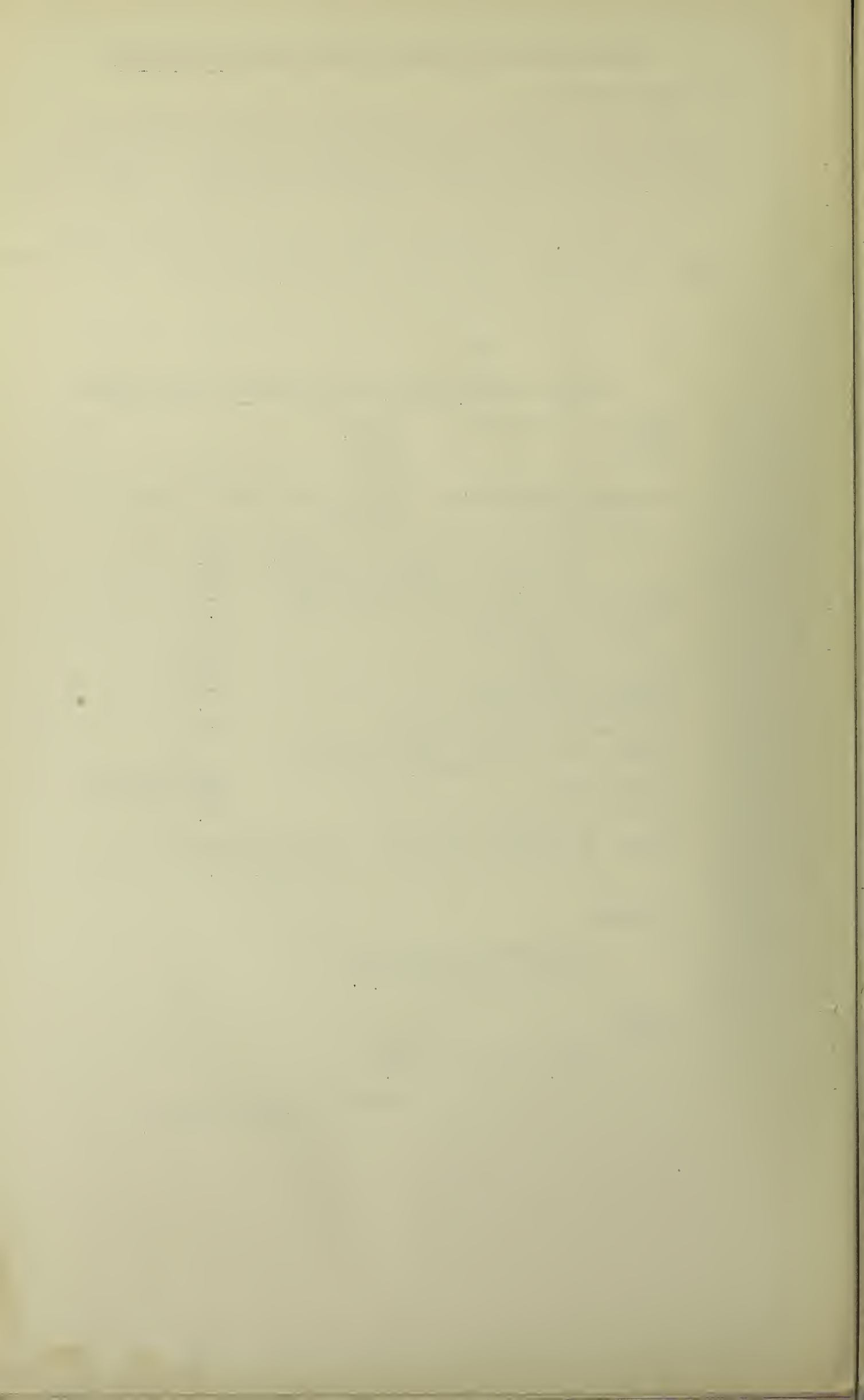
OPINION.

The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

DATE.

19th. December 1955.

(Signed) - M. M. Love,
County Analyst.



BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar.

- (a) In two days at 37° C NIL per 100 ml.
- (b) Faecal Coli NIL per cent.

OPINION.

The sample is fit for drinking.

DATE.

21st. December 1955.

(Signed) R.J. HENDERSON, M.B., ChB.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

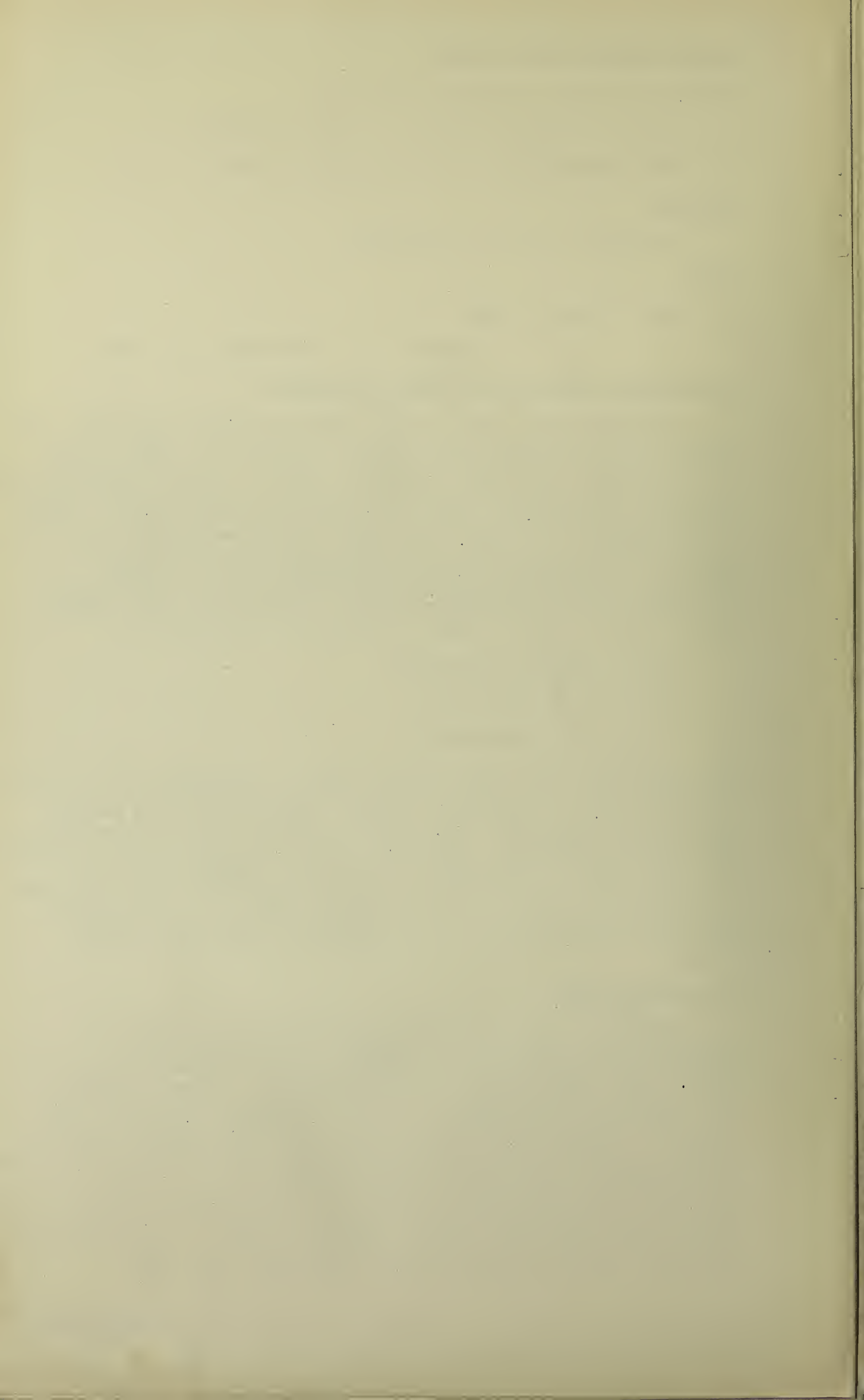
No changes were made in these services during the year. The Sewage Disposal Works situated in Hampton Road were under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor. Samples of effluent taken by the Surveyor fluctuated during the year. In some instances the standard of the effluent fell well below that laid down by the Royal Commission, and it is considered that these Sewage Disposal Works are overloaded. Letters were received from the Severn River Board drawing attention to this, and asking that steps be taken to improve the standard of effluent discharged into the River. In July 1955, Sir Arnold Waters, Consulting Engineer, submitted a report to the Council suggesting that extensions to the existing works could be added in three instalments to provide for -

- (a) the existing population,
- (b) up to 10,000 persons,
- (c) up to 15,000 persons.

Each instalment would cost in the region of £60,000. Modifications would also have to be made to the present works by the reconstruction of storm water tanks, screening and grit removal plant and the provision of new sludge drying beds at a cost of approximately £13,000. Some seven acres of land would be required for Scheme (a) and fortunately land with a suitable fall is available close to the works. The County Council have been asked to consider a Grant towards the Capital Cost of the work, and a decision on the acceptance of Birmingham Overspill is awaited. The latter should not, however, affect the first part of the Scheme.

3. Swimming Bath.

Samples of water taken for bacteriological analysis at frequent intervals during the summer were all found to be satisfactory. Owing to good weather a very successful season was enjoyed by a large number of holiday-makers. On one occasion over 4,000 persons passed through the turnstiles in one day, and this figure was approached on several occasions during July and August. Although probably less than half these persons were in the bath at any one time consideration must be given to restricting numbers should this become a regular occurrence. A fatal accident occurred during the season, but there was evidence to show that this was probably due to a blow on the head while diving. Spotters have now been set up to watch for people in difficulties, but the responsibility still rests with parents for their childrens' safety and they are too frequently neglected.



3. Swimming Bath - Continued.

A considerable amount of litter, including food and broken bottles accumulated during busy periods and placed a heavy burden on the staff, as well as being a danger to public health. This also is due to a lack of responsibility on the part of the general public. Byelaws exist and must be enforced if such a problem cannot be overcome by other means. An attempt is being made to reduce breakages and extra litter bins are being provided.

4. Refuse Disposal.

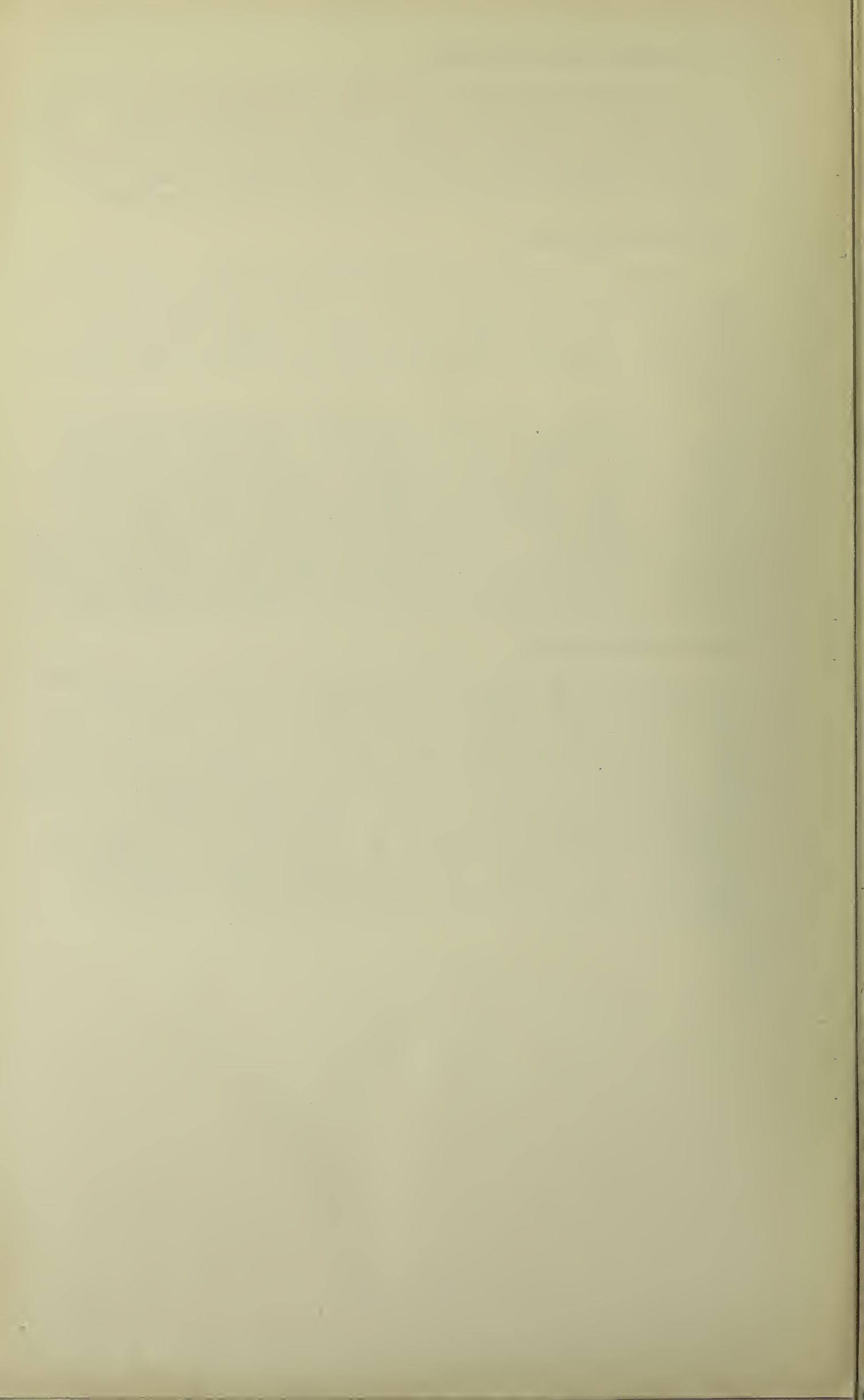
Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. The tip was kept under supervision throughout the year by the Borough Surveyor. The site is large enough to provide sufficient space for some years, and it is hoped will eventually be made suitable for use as additional Playing Fields accommodation. Collections of refuse are made weekly from all premises and three times weekly from the large hotels.

An infestation of flies was noticed, particularly on the Stalls Farm Estate, at the end of May. This was early in the season, and although the refuse tip was suspected it was not incriminated. The method of tipping was good and an adequate amount of cover material available. Regular dressings of Gammexane were applied to the tip and to the 2,000 dust bins emptied weekly and during the very warm period in August the problem diminished. It seems likely, however, that the original complaints were due to cluster flies which had hibernated in the roofs of houses during the winter and swarmed during the spring and a close watch is being kept for any recurrence this year.

5. Droitwich Canal.

Following a report by the Consulting Engineer on a £10,000 Scheme for the Abandonment of the Canal at the end of 1954, negotiations were opened up with Coventry and Worcester cities with a view to obtaining help with this Scheme. They are the main users of Severn River Water and have a direct interest in the problem as it is essential that the amount of brine discharged from the canal to the river should be strictly controlled and only discharged at high water levels. The construction of a brine storage reservoir is therefore an essential part of the Abandonment Scheme and appears to be the only way to solve the problem. The stagnant condition of the portion of the canal near the centre of the town does encourage the breeding of mosquitos which is another reason why the Scheme should be proceeded with.

End of Section "C".



SECTION "D" - HOUSING.

The following table shows the housing work carried out during 1955 :-

Number of new houses erected :-

- (1) By the Local Authority 38.
- (2) By other Local Authorities NIL.
- (3) By other bodies or persons 48.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-

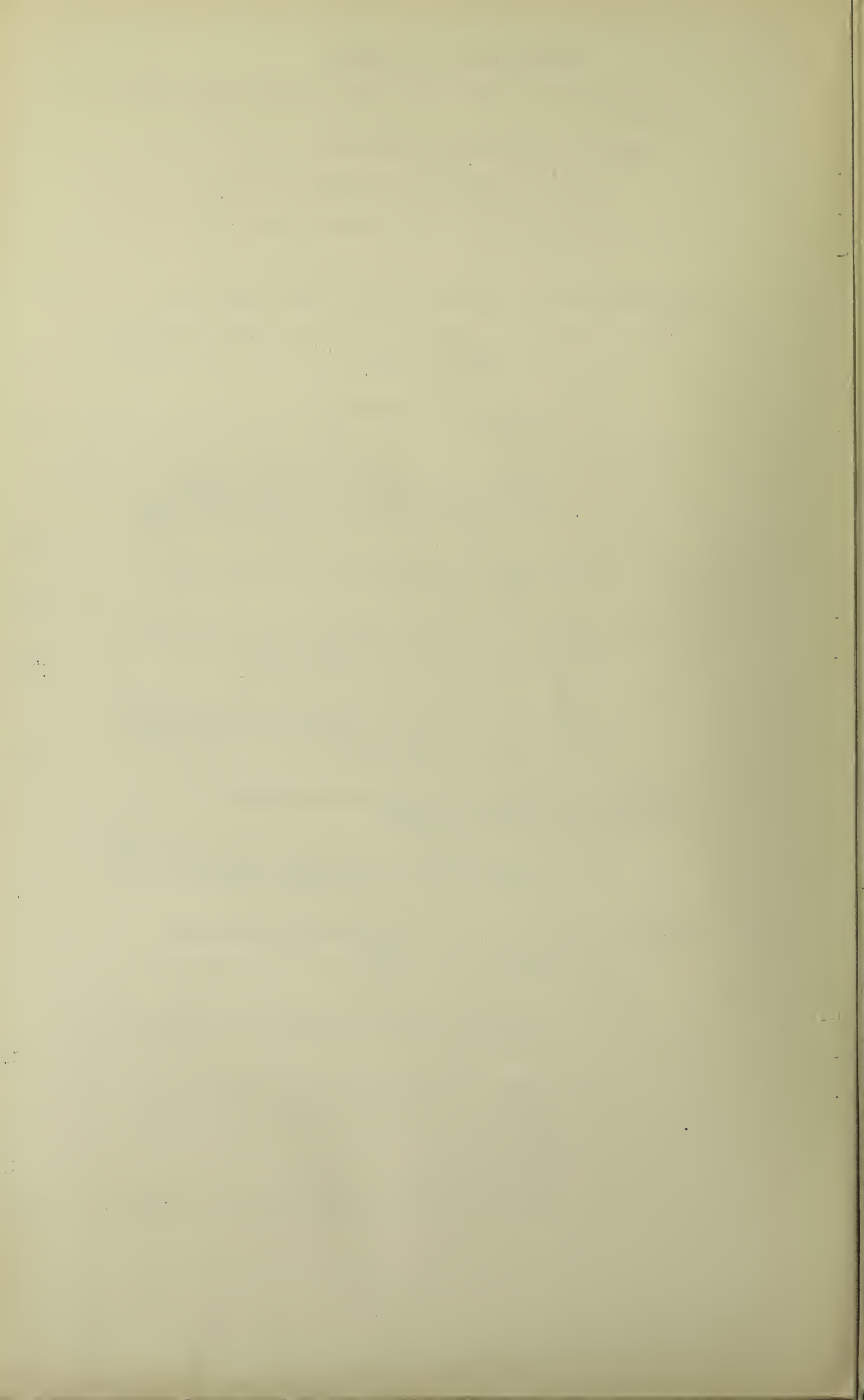
- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) :- 271.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose :- 279.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 :- 72.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose :- 113.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation :- 55.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (Exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation :- 216.

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers :- 216.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- (1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs :- 3.
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :-
 - By owners :- 3.
 - By Local Authority in default of owners :- NONE.

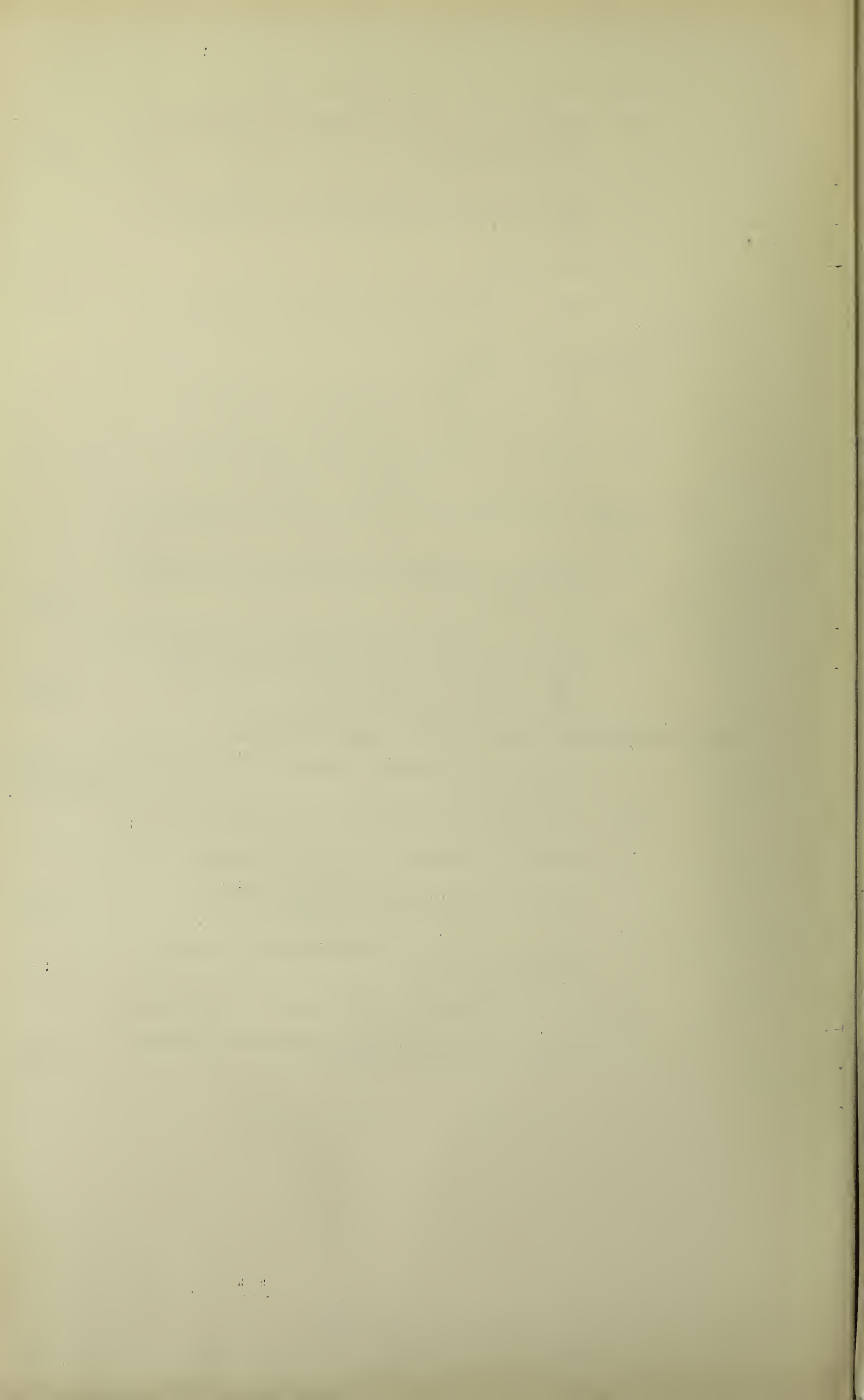


- (2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-
- (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. NONE.
- (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :-
- By owners :- NONE.
- By Local Authority in default of owners :- NONE.
- (3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
- (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made :- 8.
- (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders :- 8.
- (4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made :- NONE.
- (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit :- NONE.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

- (1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year :- NO FIGURES AVAILABLE.
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein :- "
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein :- "
- (2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year :- NONE.
- (3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year :- 6.
- (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases :- 50.
- (c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved :- NONE.

End of Section "D".



SECTION "E" - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This work again received attention during the year. Routine inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold was carried out. Details are shown on page 4 of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There are three manufacturers and thirty-five retailers of Ice Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. Two premises are registered as dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations and six dealers distribute milk within the Borough. Licences issued during the year were for the following designations :-

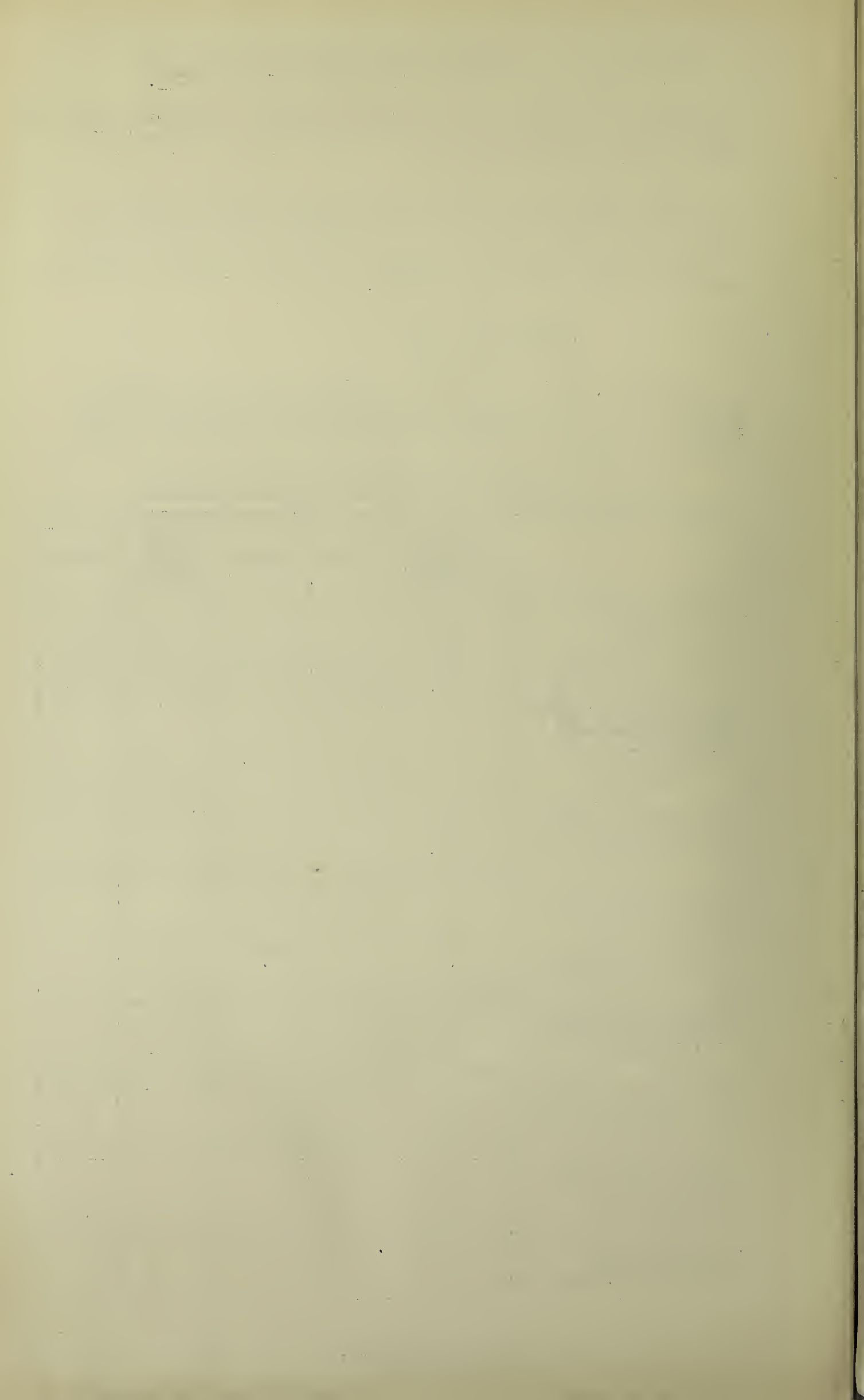
Tuberculin Tested 2.
Pasteurised or
T.T. Pasteurised 4.

Routine meat inspection was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector at the one private slaughterhouse operating in the Borough, and the quantity of meat dealt with is shown in the following table:-

Schedule of Meat Inspected During the Year 1955.

| | <u>Cattle Excluding Cows.</u> | <u>Cows</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep and Lambs</u> | <u>Pigs</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Number killed (if known). | 93. | - | 7. | 223. | 354. |
| Number inspected | 93. | - | 7. | 223. | 354. |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u> Whole carcasses condemned. | - | - | 1. | 1. | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 10. | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci. | 10.7% | - | 14.2% | 0.4% | - |
| <u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned. | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. | 3 | - | - | - | 4 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis. | 3.2% | - | - | - | 1.1% |
| <u>Cysticercosis.</u> | - | - | - | - | - |

End of Section "E".



SECTION "F".

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following tables :-

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Total Cases</u> | <u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u> | <u>Total Deaths</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Pneumonia | 3 | - | - |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | 2 | - | - |
| Measles | 151 | - | - |
| Whooping-Cough | 3 | - | - |
| Dysentery | 7 | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 2 | - | - |

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups :-

| <u>Age Group</u> | <u>Scarlet Fever</u> | <u>Measles</u> | <u>Whooping Cough</u> | <u>Pneumonia</u> | <u>Erysipelas</u> | <u>Poliomyelitis</u> | <u>Dysentery</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Under 1 yr. | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 1 " to 2 " | - | 37 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 3 " to 4 " | - | 47 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| 5 " | 2 | 61 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 10 " | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 15 " | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 20 " | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 35 " | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| 45 & over | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| Totals | 2 | 151 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |

Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below :-

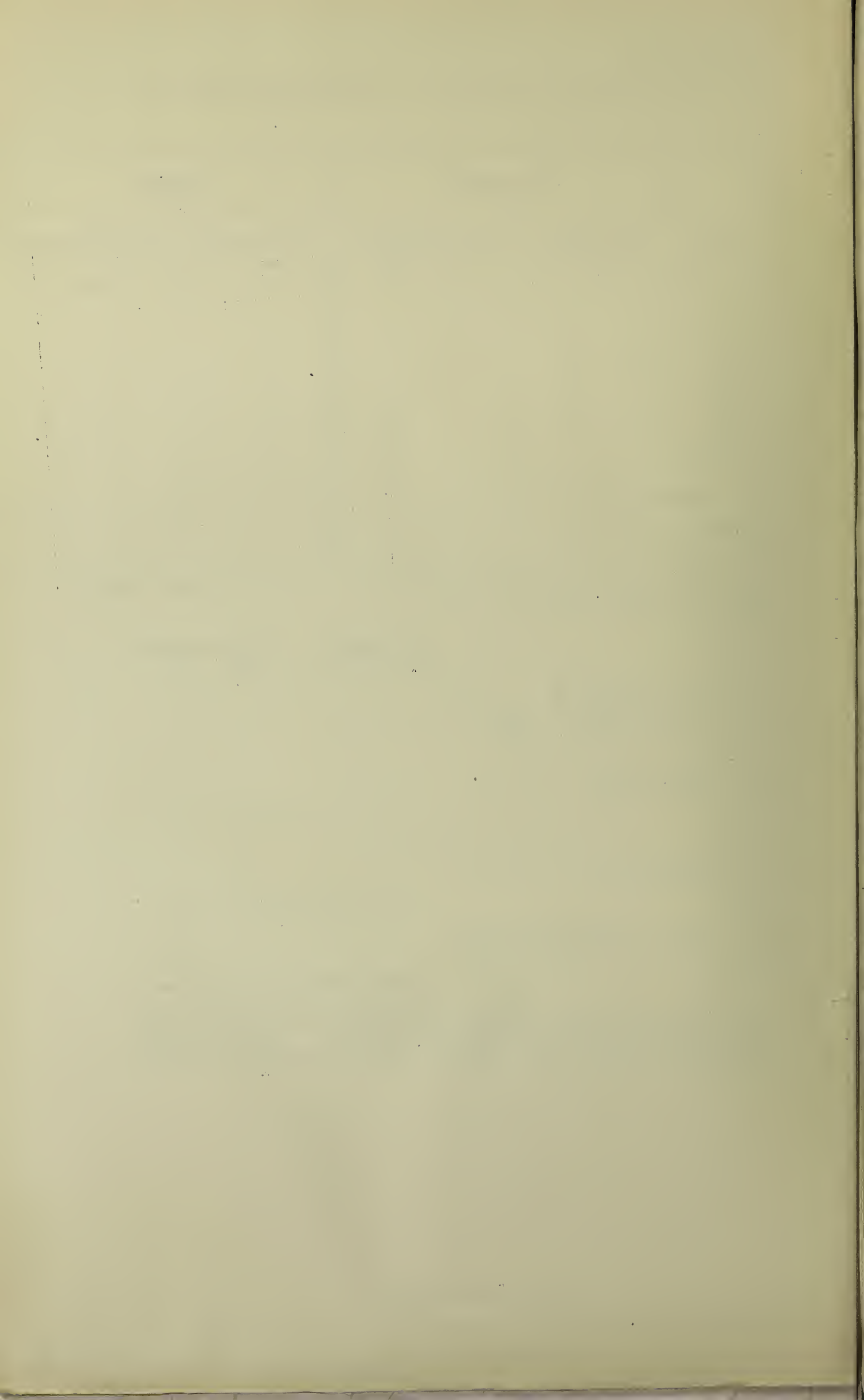
| <u>Age Periods</u> | <u>NEW CASES.</u> | | | | <u>DEATHS.</u> | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| | <u>Respiratory</u> | | <u>Non-respiratory</u> | | <u>Respiratory</u> | | <u>Non-respiratory</u> | |
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 & over | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 7 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1955 are shown below :-

| | <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non-pulmonary</u> | |
|--|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| No. of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st. January 1955. | 25 | 15 | - | 4 |
| Additions to Register during year. | 7 | 4 | - | - |
| | 32 | 19 | - | 4 |
| Deductions from Register during year. | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| No. of cases on Register at 31st. December 1955 | 29 | 18 | - | 4 |

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held quarterly. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculous patients and their families.

End of Section "F"



Borough Surveyor's Department,
Town Hall,
Droitwich.

August, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

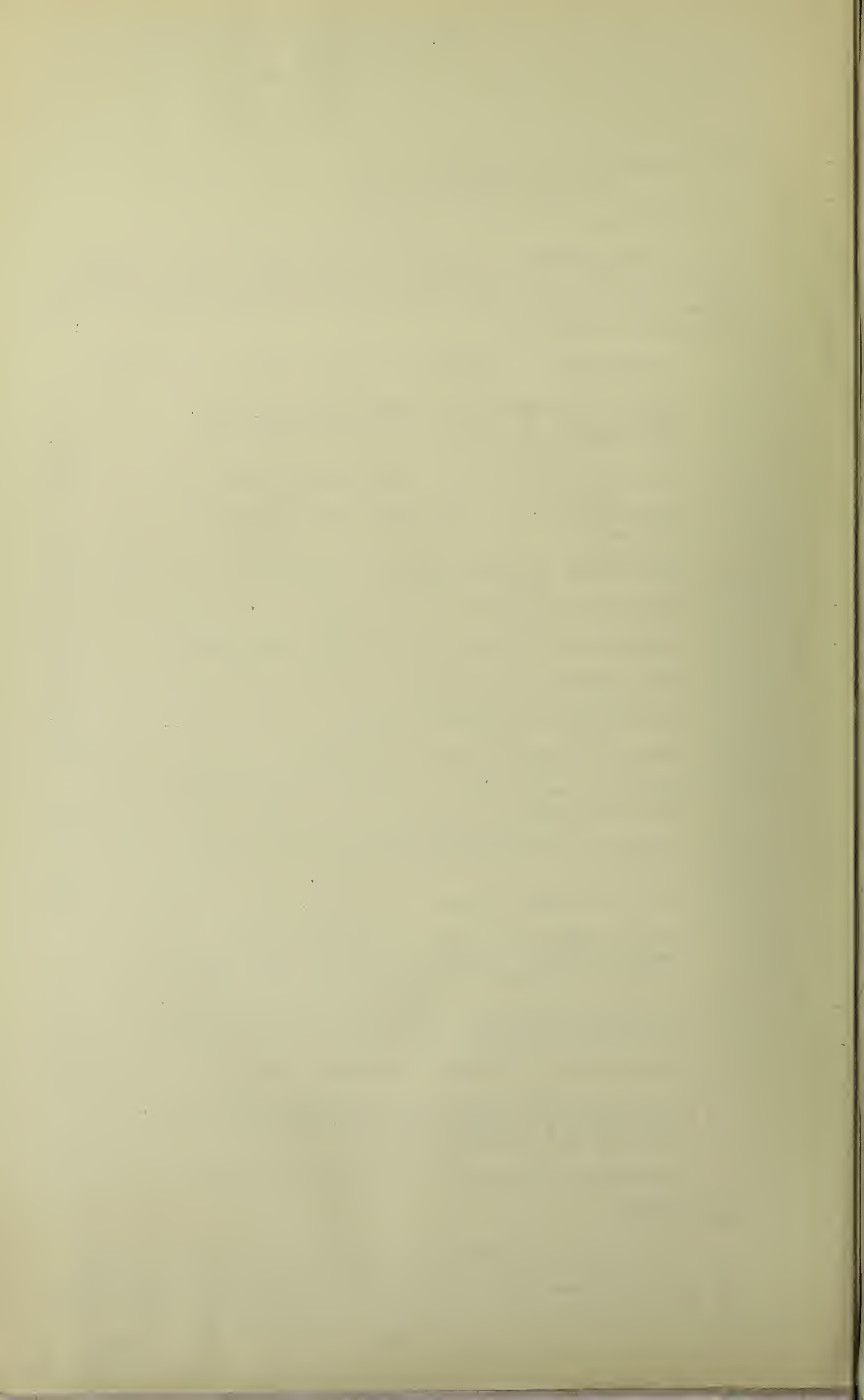
I have pleasure in submitting my eleventh Annual Report upon the work of the Department during 1955, and once again I would like to thank your Council for continued support and the Town Clerk, other Officers and Staff of the Department for their co-operation and help.

A statement of inspections made in 1955 is as follows :-

| | |
|---|------|
| Visits of inspection of works in progress at Stalls Farm, St. Peters Crescent, Vines Lane and Friar Street Estates | 180. |
| Visits to direct labour and contract works .. | 156. |
| Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws | 400. |
| Inspections re maintenance of highways . . . | 170. |
| Inspections re public water supply | 42. |
| Inspections re factories including bakehouses | 18. |
| Inspections of Food Shops | 28. |
| Inspections at Slaughterhouse | 73. |
| Visits to Council Houses re repairs | 283. |
| Visits re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip | 151. |
| Visits re supervision of Parks & Public Open Spaces | 77. |
| Visits re Canal Scheme | 12. |
| Samples taken for analysis, including milk, sewage, water, ice cream, swimming bath water and trade effluent | 31. |
| Number of houses inspected for housing defects, including re-visits | 279. |
| Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded | 95. |
| Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work, and advice re planning and building byelaws | 91. |
| Inspection of houses in course of improvement | 27. |

NEW HOUSING

The number of Council Houses and Flats completed during the year amounted to 38, which when compared with the number of private houses (48) built, shows the successful continuance of the Council's policy favouring the erection of more private



NEW HOUSING - CONTINUED.

dwellings than Council Houses. Even yet the ratio is not as high as the Council would wish and with the Government's 'Dear Money' policy one wonders whether there will be a diminution in private building.

The development of St. Peters Crescent Estate was completed except for the building of shops and possibly a pair of houses as infilling with them. The thirty five houses recently completed were of a modest but compact design incorporating the best features of post war housing and containing one double and two single bedrooms in each. They have proved popular with the tenants and the terraced lay-out following the slope of the ground gives a pleasing and natural appearance to the site.

The building of 12 houses in Vines Lane was completed as was the re-development of a site in Friar Street with 8 houses, following the demolition of a block of old cottages converted years ago from the old Vicarage at one time attached to the original St. Nicholas Church. This obsolete property was replaced by eight houses in two terraces of four. Both these sites have, I feel, been useful development, much in favour with the old Droitwich families and the use of sites having services already available, near the shopping centre is useful infilling and helps to stop the spread away from the town centre into agricultural land.

Consideration to the building of a block of bungalows at the eastern end of Vines Lane was under way at the end of the year. I feel that thought might be given, at an opportune time, to other similar re-development which would surely be not only good planning but sound economics.

Plans for the erection of 31 houses and 10 flats at Chawson were approved and it was hoped to obtain tenders for these early in 1956. This would be the commencement of the Chawson Estate.

The building of houses by private enterprise proceeded apace, particularly in the first part of the year. The New Witton Estate roads and services were completed and except for several individual plots, the land was sold to Messrs. Geo. Bourne Ltd. for private development. Following negotiations, this firm purchased the undeveloped 22.496 acres. Building speedily progressed and a great part of the site had been built up with houses and bungalows by the end of the year.

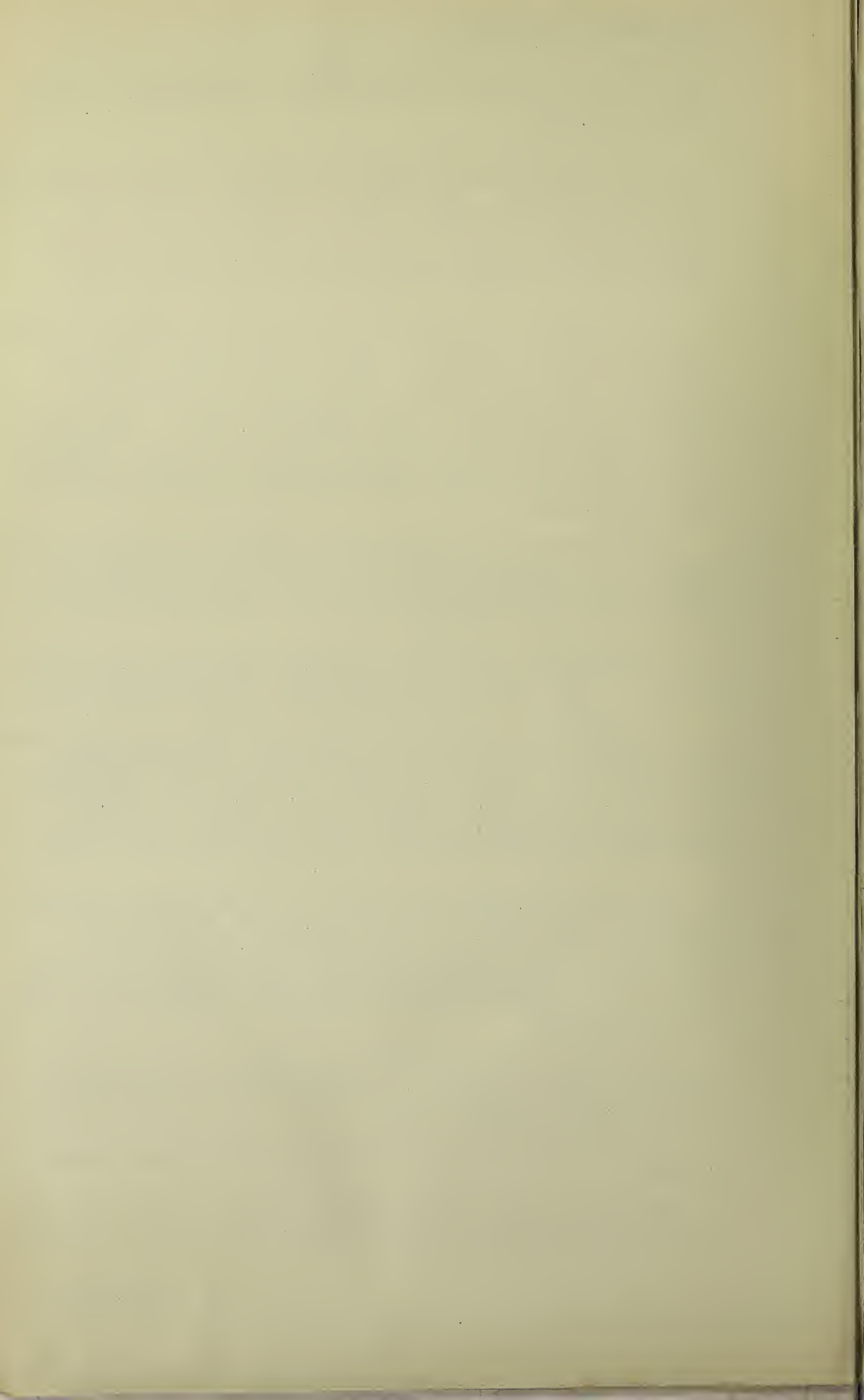
Private development was begun east of the Holloway Road and fronting on to Mayflower Road by Messrs. Geo. Harrison & Son (Builders) Ltd., this is on land previously the St. Peters Allotments. It is interesting to note that St. Peters Fields, which was land open to the surrounding country when given to the Council is now almost surrounded with house development and will shortly be an oasis in the houses around it, as was envisaged when the gift was made.

The Hanbury Road Development was completed and a number of individual houses were built on various sites in the Borough, particular mention should be made of the erection of 6 bungalows at the corner of Oakland Avenue.

A total of 48 houses privately built were occupied during the year.

The Norbury Hotel remains empty, a scheme for its conversion into flats was received, but the financial difficulties encountered made it impossible to proceed.

Continued -



NEW HOUSING - CONTINUED.

Overspill was under discussion during the whole year. Representatives of the County Council met the Borough Council and a great deal of thought was given to the matter which appears to be bogged down on the vexed question of finance. In the meantime, the Town grows and the various problems resulting from the growth will have to be faced and dealt with before long, in particular the construction of a major extension to the sewage disposal works.

HOUSING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE BOROUGH.

In accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the Council accepted a schedule of unfit properties in the Borough numbering 55 dwellings in all. The Council, whilst not binding themselves to complete within five years, commenced to deal with the matter forthwith, and I feel made good headway.

The eight cottages, Nos. 18 to 32 Bromsgrove Road, known as Hill End Gardens were demolished and the site cleared by the owner, the tenants being rehoused by the Council.

No. 15 Winnetts Lane was vacated on the tenant being rehoused and the owner gave an undertaking accepted by the Council not to re-use for housing purposes, in fact it is being used as an office.

No. 33 Friar Street was in course of demolition at the end of the year.

The tenant of No. 29 Hanbury Road was rehoused and the owner re-conditioned the dwelling, providing a bathroom and connecting the house to the public sewer.

The Council took action under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 to obtain the execution of repairs, (including provision of a damp proof course) to Nos. 18, 20 and 22 St. Nicholas Street. After the Council had obtained tenders for the execution of the repairs, the owner decided to carry out the work herself and this has been done.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

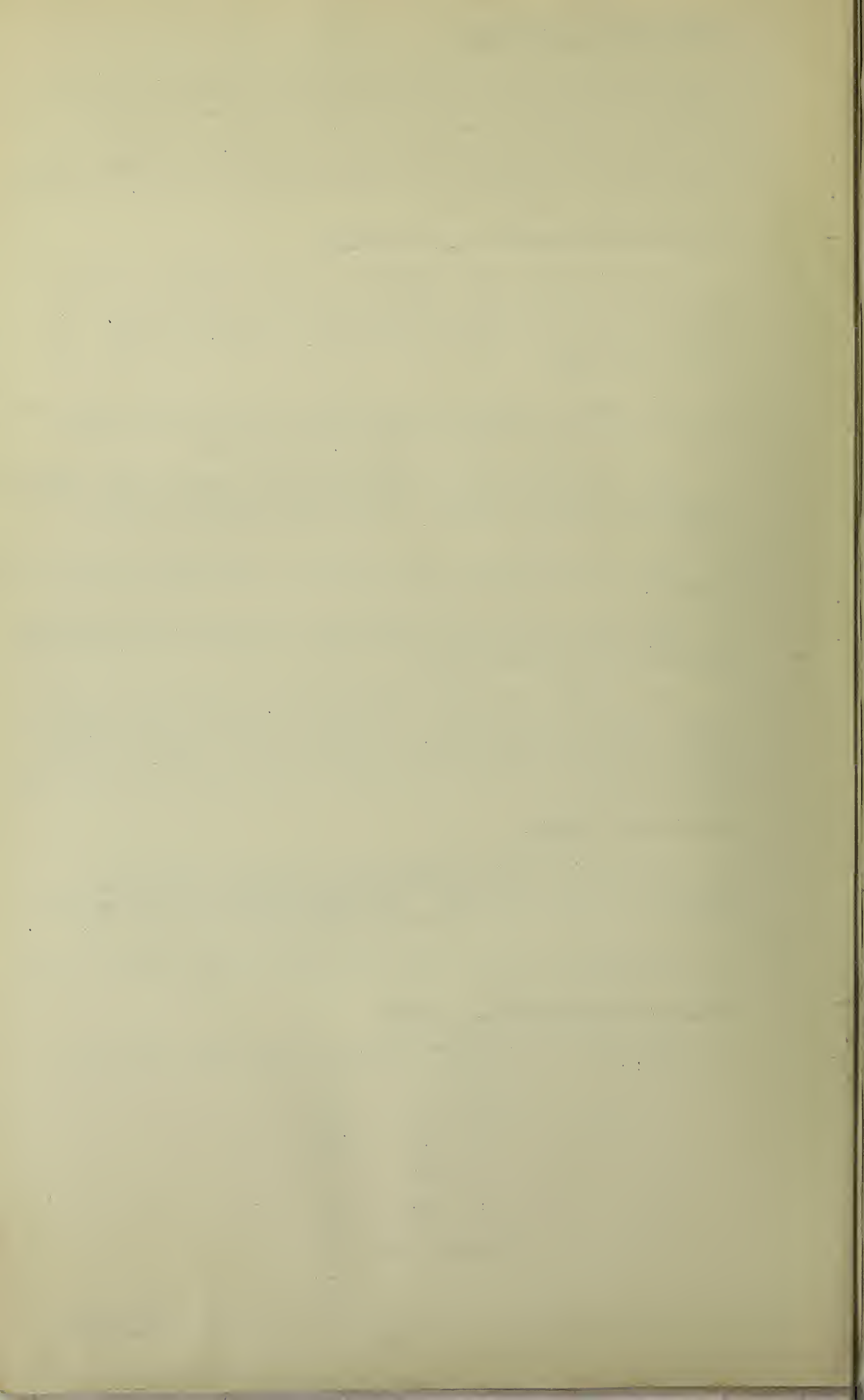
The Council, after further consideration, decided to implement to the full the making of grants under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. Five applications for grants were received and five grants promised amounting to £1,936. 10. 0.

Work was in progress upon two houses in this respect at the end of the year.

APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

The number of registered applicants was 334, made up as follows :-

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-------|
| Group | I | 77 |
| " | II | 105 |
| " | III | 8 |
| " | IV | 55 |
| Deferred list | | 89 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 334. |



APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES - CONTINUED.

The completion of the houses in Vines Lane and Friar Street enabled the Council to house a number of local families who had been on the waiting list for a considerable period.

Applications continue to be received at a greater rate than the Council are building.

COUNCIL HOUSE MANAGEMENT.

At December 1955 the Council owned 655 dwellings.

The transfer machinery continues to be widely used to implement the Council's policy of making the maximum use of housing accommodation. Tenants transferred during the year numbered 32, included in which number were Gregory and Duplex flat tenants with children, transferred to houses as these became available.

House painting was by direct labour in lieu of contract, and 40 houses were painted, being 28 at Stalls Farm Estate and 12 at Pridzor Road.

979 repairs were carried out in your properties, varying from the fixing of fire bricks to the replacement of a floor in the pre war houses. By far the majority of repairs were for minor matters.

MEAT AND FOOD CONSUMPTION.

Slaughtering has continued at Messrs. Levett & Hill's slaughterhouse, in which two local butchers kill their meat. The remaining butchers in the Town purchase their meat from abattoirs outside the Borough.

During the year the following carcasses have been inspected :-

| <u>Beasts.</u> | <u>Calves.</u> | <u>Sheep.</u> | <u>Pigs.</u> |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 93 | 7 | 223 | 354 |

418 lbs. of meat, including offal were voluntarily surrendered by the butchers concerned as being unfit for food.

Periodic inspection of food premises has continued and efforts made to improve standards.

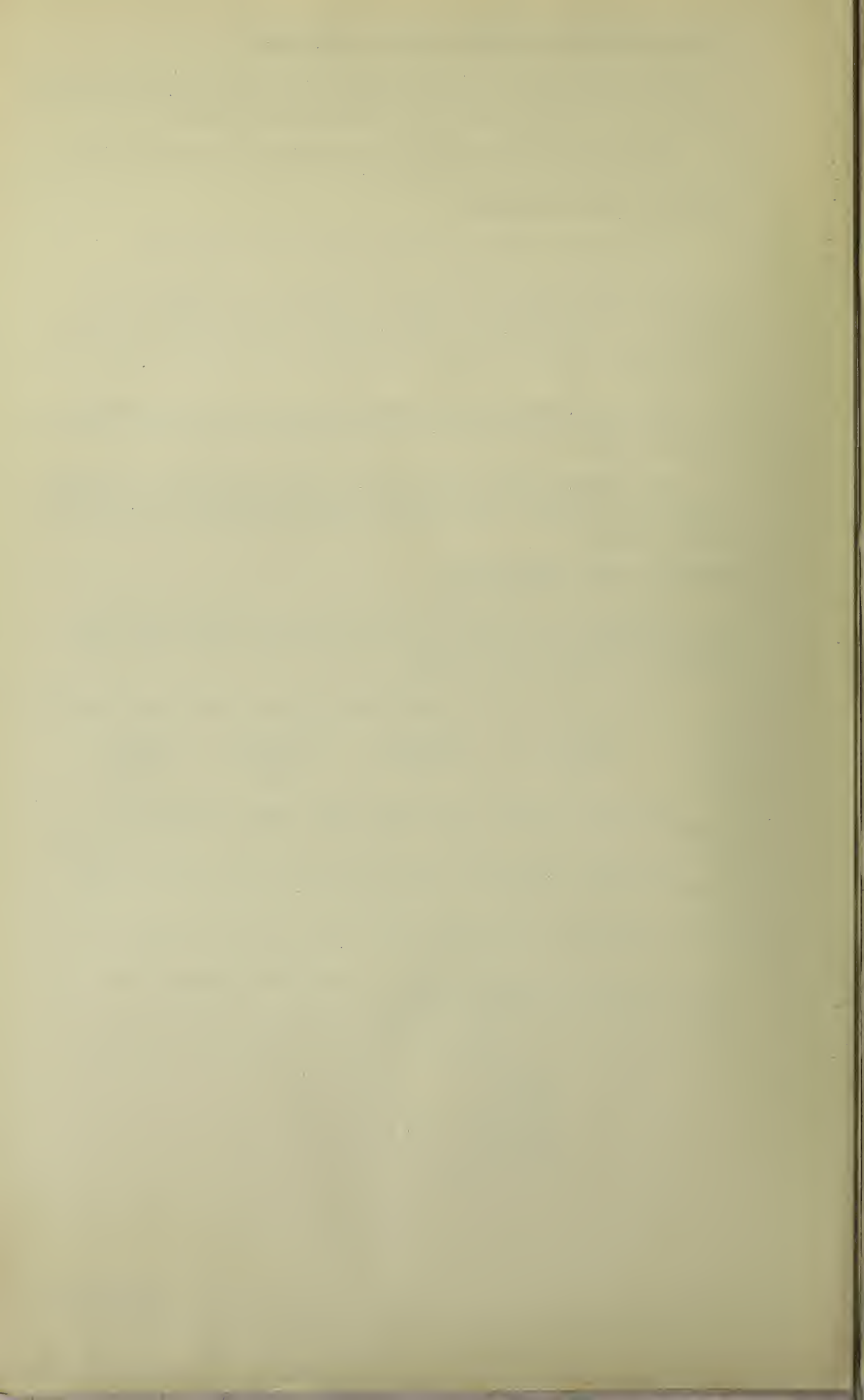
7 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

The following statistics are submitted in connection with food premises in the Borough :-

(a) Number of food premises total 60, made up as follows :-

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Hotels | 6. |
| Cafes | 11. |
| Canteens | 4. |
| Grocers | 26. |
| Butchers | 10 |
| Fishmongers | 3. |

—
60.
—



MEAT AND FOOD CONSUMPTION - CONTINUED.

- (b) Number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 ... 35.
- Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 2.
- (c) Number of inspections made of food premises 106.
- (d) Condemned food is collected and disposed of by the Local Authority.

SCAVENGING AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The weekly collection of house refuse from domestic premises has continued with a weekly emptying of pail closets from the few outlying houses, for which a sewer is not available.

Salvage collected and sold during 1955 shows an increase over the previous year, and amounts to :-

| | <u>T.</u> | <u>C.</u> | <u>Q.</u> | | <u>£..</u> | <u>s.</u> | <u>d.</u> |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Mixed Waste Paper | 37. | 11. | 0. | Value | 305. | 10. | 0. |
| Scrap Iron | 6. | 4. | 1. | " | 24. | 11. | 0. |
| Total Value | | | | | 330. | 1. | 0. |

Street sweeping was altered from the lengthsman system to a sweeping gang for the whole of the built-up area of the Town, except the Town Centre where a sweeper on patrol was found necessary. A gang of three men was used and this was found to be much more efficient and economical and younger men were prepared to carry out the work.

This innovation resulted in a useful reduction of expenditure.

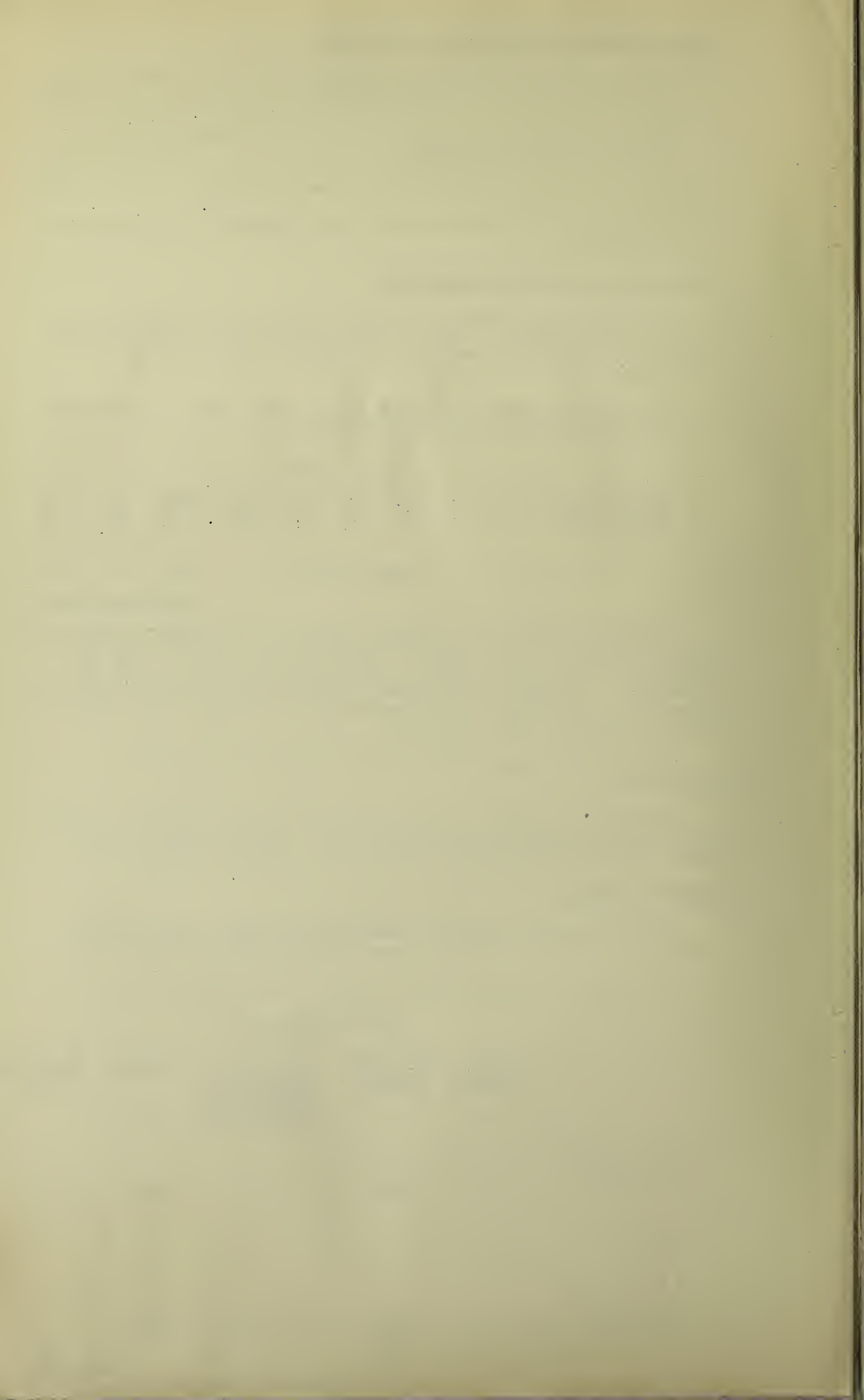
Disposal of house refuse is by controlled tipping and the tip has been maintained in good order, refuse being covered daily and the tip regularly dressed to control flies.

RODENT CONTROL.

This work has continued upon a bi-monthly basis, and I can report that the Town is free from any major infestation :-

A summary of work carried out is as follows :-

| | <u>Type of Property.</u> | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------------|
| | <u>L. Au-</u> <u>thority</u> | <u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u> | <u>All other</u> <u>(including</u> <u>Business &</u> <u>Industrial)</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Agricul-</u> <u>tural</u> |
| 1. Total No. of properties in Borough. | 9 | 1928 | 188 | 2125 | 11 |
| 2. No. of properties inspected as (a) a result of (a) notification or (b) otherwise. | (b) 9 | 794 | 33 | 836 | 11 |



RODENT CONTROL - CONTINUED.

| | | <u>L. Au-</u> <u>thority</u> | <u>Dwelling</u> <u>houses</u> | <u>All other</u> <u>(including</u> <u>Business &</u> <u>Industrial)</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Agricul-</u> <u>tural.</u> |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 3. No. of | | | | | | |
| proper- | (a) | | | | | |
| ties | Major | - | - | - | - | - |
| under 2. | Minor | 7 | 34 | 8 | 49 | 3 |
| found to | (b) | | | | | |
| be infes- | Minor | - | 5 | 1 | 6 | - |
| ted by | Major | - | - | - | - | - |
| (a) rats or | | | | | | |
| (b) mice. | | | | | | |
| 4. No. of | | | | | | |
| infested | | | | | | |
| properties | | 7 | 39 | 9 | 55 | 3 |
| treated. | | | | | | |
| 5. No. of notices | | | | | | |
| served under | | | | | | |
| Sec. 4 of Act. | | | | | | |
| (a) Treatment | | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| (b) Structural | | | | | | |
| work (i.e. | | | | | | |
| Proofing). | | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |

SAMPLING.

The following samples were taken for analysis during the year :-

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Ice Cream | 7. |
| Town Water | 4. |
| Well Water | 6. |
| Sewage Effluent etc. | 9. |
| Trade effluent | 4. |
| | — |
| Total | 30. |
| | == |

HIGHWAYS.

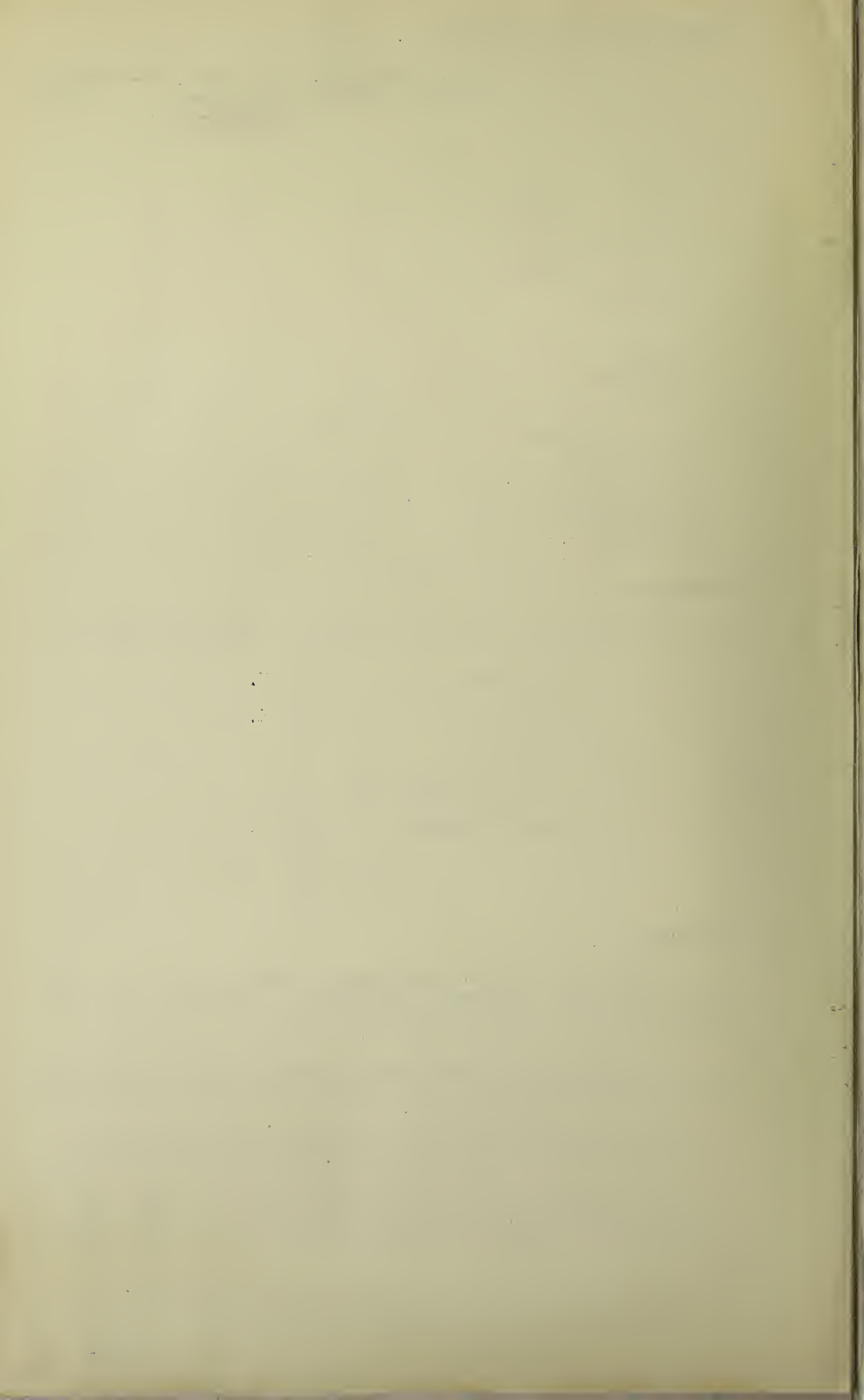
During the past year approximately half of the roads were surface dressed, the Council decided not to surface dress the remainder but to leave them a further period. No general improvements were carried out.

The Tagwell Road Improvement Scheme was the subject of a further application for classification, but this was refused by the Ministry of Transport.

Hanbury Road service road was completed by the Council during the year, and all the development along it was finished.

An embankment slip on the side of the road occurred at Chawson, and this resulted in part of a culvert having to be reconstructed, the cost being borne equally by the Town Council and the County Council.

The roads at the New Witton Estate were completed.



HIGHWAYS - CONTINUED.

Considerable snow fall was experienced, but the roads were kept clear and well gritted, and at no time was there any carriageway impassable. Little damage to highways resulted from the long period of frost.

A scheme for the making up of Lyttelton Road South, the only private street unadopted in the Town was under consideration and estimates were in preparation.

The footpath fronting the Hydro Site in Corbett Avenue was made up and paved.

Mr. F.P. Millward, the road foreman, left to take up another appointment and Mr. W. Palmer of Lynton U.D.C. was engaged to fill the appointment.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers in the Borough have been maintained in a generally satisfactory condition, no major blockages occurring. A further 10 manhole covers have been replaced with new ones.

The report submitted by Sir Arnold Waters on 12th. July 1955 was considered and deferred, pending a decision from the County Council as to any financial assistance which would be given towards the cost of the Scheme. In the meantime the disposal works in their present overloaded condition continue to deteriorate producing an unsatisfactory effluent.

A major problem is dealing with the sludge which is run into ditches and then dug and lifted on to the bank at the side to dry. These banks get very high making digging difficult. The past summer was a dry one and the dry sludge caught fire which, whilst causing a nuisance from its smell did a great deal of good by lowering the level of the banks considerably.

There are now several factories discharging trade waste under a Trade Waste Agreement, into the sewer.

Two sets of filter arms were replaced, the work being carried out by the Manager.

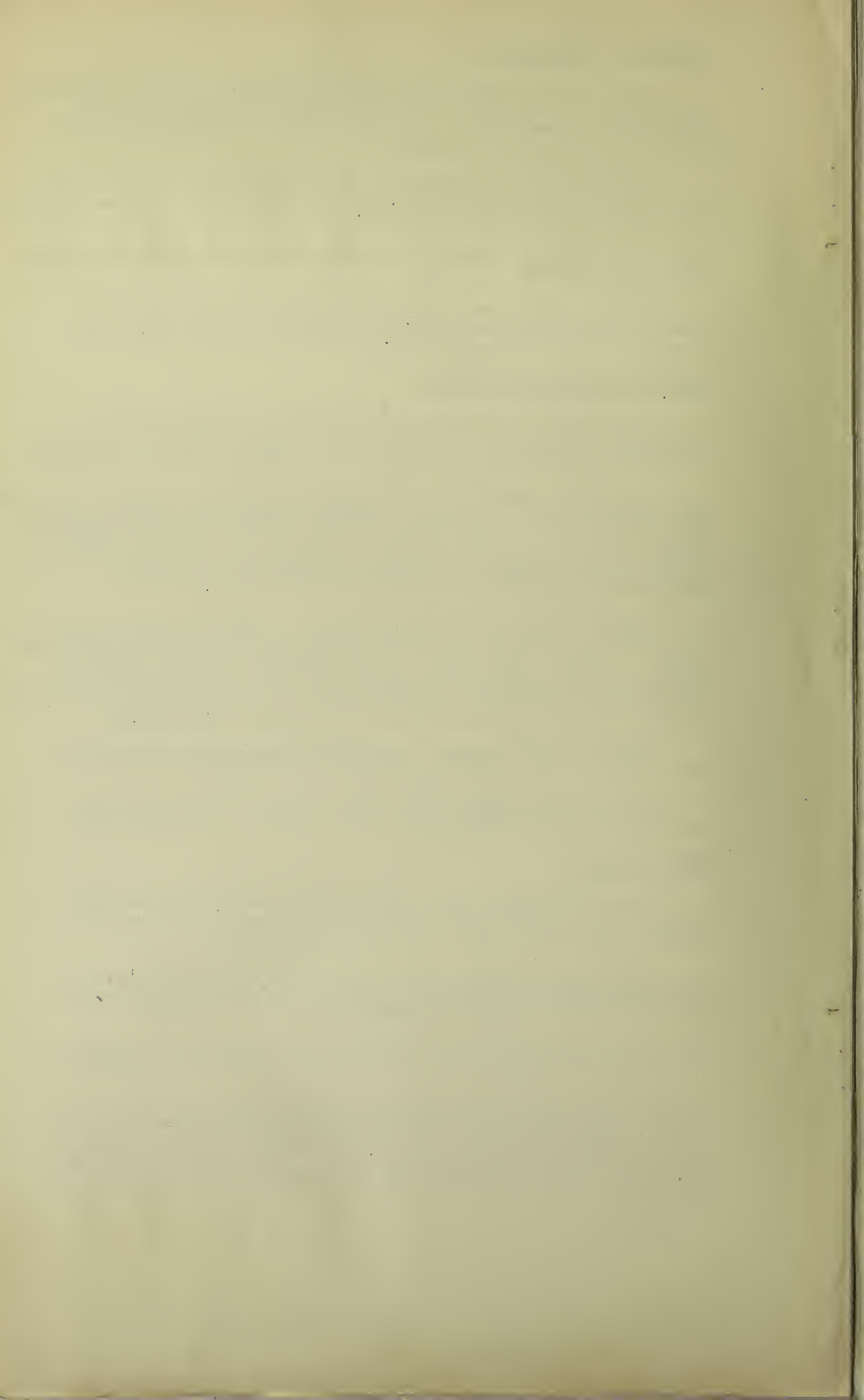
WATER SUPPLY.

Water continued to be purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company and a renewed Agreement was entered into after some two years negotiation.

Consumption during 1955 amounted to 107,705,000 galls. averaging 295,082 gallons per day in 1955, as compared with 292,800 gallons per day in 1954.

963 taps and 521 ball valves were adjusted or washered free during the year.

It was hoped that a water main would be extended to Chawson and an application for financial assistance from the County Council was made, but unfortunately this was refused and the extension has not been made. The private wells at Primsland, which were found to be polluted still continue to be used.



PARKS & OPEN SPACES.

The Vines Park Bowling Green was in use during the year and showed a gradual improvement. The number of workmen employed has been reduced to three, and consequently the gardens and parks have not been able to be maintained in the condition one would like.

Assistance has been given at the King George Playing Field by the Cricket Club who carried out a good deal of the cutting of the grass during the cricket season. This field is still worked far beyond its capacity.

DROITWICH CANAL.

There is no progress to report upon this Scheme and the canal deteriorates gradually from year to year. In Vines Park reeds have grown practically across the canal bed, and the sluice gate is getting so dilapidated that it is most difficult to hold up sufficient water in the river to flush the canal.

FACTORY DEVELOPMENT.

No further factory development has taken place.

COVERCROFT.

Following discussions with the County Planning Authority, it was agreed to invite offers for the purchase and development of Covercroft. This was done nationally and locally, a number of enquiries were received, but no definite offers.

I am,

Your worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON.

Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

